

Weekly Compilation of  
**Presidential  
Documents**



Monday, January 7, 2008  
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## Contents

### Addresses and Remarks

President's Working Group on Financial  
Markets, meeting—1647  
Radio address—1645  
Texas, departure from Waco—1647

### Bill Signings

Sudan Accountability and Divestment Act of  
2007, statement—1646

### Executive Orders

Adjustments of Certain Rates of Pay—1648

### Letters and Messages

New Year's Day, 2008, message—1646

### Statements by the President

*See also* Bill Signings  
Rep. Roger F. Wicker, appointment as U.S.  
Senator for Mississippi—1646

### Supplementary Materials

Acts approved by the President—1650  
Checklist of White House press releases—  
1649  
Digest of other White House  
announcements—1649  
Nominations submitted to the Senate—1649

## WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

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## PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, January 4, 2008

### **The President's Radio Address**

*December 29, 2007*

Good morning. New Year's Day will soon be upon us, and with it will come New Year's resolutions. This weekend is a good time to give thanks for our blessings and to resolve to do better in the coming year.

One of our greatest blessings as Americans is that we live in a country with a growing economy, where people can pursue their dreams, turn ideas into enterprises, and provide for their families. It is a measure of our economy's resilience that even with high oil prices and softness in the housing market, we're still growing. In November, our economy added jobs for the 51st straight month, making this the longest period of uninterrupted job growth on record. Unemployment is a low 4.7 percent. Exports are up. And the fundamentals of our economy are strong.

Economic statistics are important indicators. Yet it is more important to remember that behind all these numbers are real people. These people include the entrepreneurs who live their dreams by starting up new businesses. These people include small-business owners who create most of the new jobs in our economy. And most of all, these people include the tens of millions of working moms and dads whose jobs provide for their families.

I know that even in this growing economy, some of you have real concerns. Some of you worry about your ability to afford health care coverage for your families. Some of you are concerned about meeting your monthly mortgage payments. Some of you worry about the impact of rising energy costs on fueling your cars and heating your homes. You expect your elected leaders in Washington to address these pressures on our economy and give you more options to help you deal with them. And I have put forth several proposals to do so.

In the last month, Congress has responded to some of my initiatives. They passed a good energy bill; they passed a temporary patch to protect middle class families from the burden of the Alternative Minimum Tax; and they passed a law that will help protect families from higher taxes when their lenders reduce their mortgage debt. But this is only a start. Congress needs to do more to decrease America's dependence on oil. Congress needs to pass legislation that will help make health care coverage more affordable for small businesses and workers who buy their own policies. And Congress needs to act quickly on the rest of my proposals to help families struggling with rising mortgage payments keep their homes.

Most of all, we need to set a good example in Washington by being careful with your money. I'm disappointed that leaders in Congress sent me a massive spending bill that includes about 9,800 earmarks. Earmarks are special interest items that are slipped into big spending bills like this one—often at the last hour, without discussion or debate. Among the earmarks Congress approved was one for a prison museum and another for a sailing school. In the last election, congressional leaders ran on a promise that they would reform earmarks. They made some progress, but not nearly enough. So my administration is reviewing options to address wasteful earmark spending.

As we address earmarks, we also must restrain spending, keep taxes low, and continue on a path towards a balanced budget. And that is what the budget I submit in February will do. You work hard for your money and to live within your means. As you provide for your families, the last thing you need is wasteful spending that will lead to a tax hike. My resolution for the New Year is this: to work with Congress to keep our economy growing, to keep your tax burden low, and to ensure that the money you send to Washington is spent wisely or not at all.

Thank you for listening, and happy New Year.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 8:20 a.m. on December 28 at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on December 29. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 28 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

**Statement on the Appointment of Representative Roger F. Wicker as United States Senator for Mississippi**

*December 31, 2007*

Today Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour announced the appointment of Representative Roger Wicker to serve as United States Senator for the State of Mississippi, succeeding Senator Trent Lott.

I welcome Representative Wicker's appointment and commend Governor Barbour for the selection. Representative Wicker's leadership has earned the respect of his constituents and his colleagues in the House of Representatives. He is an advocate for our men and women in uniform and a champion of modernizing our health care system, and he shares Senator Lott's commitment to promote the interests of the people of Mississippi.

I look forward to working with Roger in his new role representing Mississippi in the United States Senate.

**Statement on Signing the Sudan Accountability and Divestment Act of 2007**

*December 31, 2007*

Today, I have signed into law S. 2271, the "Sudan Accountability and Divestment Act of 2007." I share the deep concern of the Congress over the continued violence in Darfur perpetrated by the Government of Sudan and rebel groups. My Administration will continue its efforts to bring about significant improvements in the conditions in Sudan through sanctions against the Government of Sudan and high-level diplomatic en-

gagement and by supporting the deployment of peacekeepers in Darfur.

This Act purports to authorize State and local governments to divest from companies doing business in named sectors in Sudan and thus risks being interpreted as insulating from Federal oversight State and local divestment actions that could interfere with implementation of national foreign policy. However, as the Constitution vests the exclusive authority to conduct foreign relations with the Federal Government, the executive branch shall construe and enforce this legislation in a manner that does not conflict with that authority.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
December 31, 2007.

NOTE: S. 2271, approved December 31, was assigned Public Law No. 110-174.

**Message on the Observance of New Year's Day, 2008**

*December 31, 2007*

As we enter this New Year, we reflect on the past and look forward to a promising year ahead.

A future of hope and opportunity begins with a robust economy. Thanks to America's workers and entrepreneurs, our economy grew at a vigorous rate last year. Keeping taxes low and exercising fiscal restraint helped ensure that the number of jobs increased and the deficit once again fell ahead of schedule. The underpinnings of our economy have proven strong, competitive, and resilient enough to overcome the challenges we face. In the coming year, we will continue to encourage growth in the economy so Americans have more money to invest in their businesses, spend on their families, and put aside for the future.

In addition to our efforts here at home, the United States continued its work to spread freedom and peace around the world. America is determined to defeat terrorists and extremists, and we will remain on the offensive against the enemies of freedom. In 2008, we will continue to stand beside our partners in the international community to

lay a foundation of peace for our children and grandchildren.

America is grateful for the service and sacrifice of our Nation's troops and their families. During this hopeful time of year, we remain mindful of the courage and resolve of the fine men and women who protect our country and defend freedom's cause.

As we welcome this New Year, we move forward with trust in the power of the American spirit, confidence in our purpose, and faith in a loving God who created us to be free.

Laura and I send our best wishes for a happy New Year. May God bless you, may God bless our troops and their families, and may God bless America.

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

### **Remarks on Departure From Waco, Texas**

*January 1, 2008*

**The President.** Laura and I wish our fellow Americans a happy and healthy 2008. I particularly want to say something to our troops and their families: This country respects you; we admire you; and we wish you a great 2008 as well.

We've just come off the ranch; had a good rest and good New Year's with some friends. And I'm looking forward to getting back to Washington to work on policies to keep this country safe and to keep this country prosperous.

I just wanted to stop by and wish everybody a happy 2008. Thank you.

**The First Lady.** Happy New Year, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:35 a.m. at Texas State Technical College. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

### **Remarks Following a Meeting With the President's Working Group on Financial Markets**

*January 4, 2008*

I just had a fascinating and productive meeting with the President's Working Group on Financial Markets, chaired by Secretary Paulson. I want to thank the members for working diligently to monitor our capital market system, our financial system. And while there is some uncertainty, the report is, is that the financial markets are strong and solid. And I want to thank you for being diligent.

This economy of ours is on a solid foundation, but we can't take economic growth for granted. And there are signs that will cause us to be ever more diligent and to make sure that good policies come out of Washington. For example, we've had 52 straight months of job creation, but job growth slowed last month. The core inflation is low, but U.S. consumers are paying more for gasoline and for food. The consumer spending is strong, yet the values on many of the homes in America are beginning to decline and—which leads me to say to the American people: For those of you who are paying more and are worried about your home, we understand that. That's why we have an aggressive policy to help creditworthy people stay in their homes.

The Congress and the President have got to work together when they come back to, one, make sure taxes remain low. If there are—if the foundation is strong yet indicators are mixed, the worst thing that Congress could do is raise taxes on the American people and on American businesses. Secondly, we have got to understand that if we are worried about gasoline prices, we ought to expand refineries here in the United States, and we ought to explore for oil and gas in environmentally friendly ways in the United States. As I mentioned, the Secretary and Secretary Jackson are leading an initiative on housing called HOPE NOW, but there's legislation that can be passed to make it easier for people to refinance their homes.

And so when Congress comes back, I look forward to working with them to deal with the economic realities of the moment and

to assure the American people that we will do everything we can to make sure we remain a prosperous country.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:47 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.

**Executive Order 13454—  
Adjustments of Certain Rates of Pay**  
*January 4, 2008*

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the laws cited herein, it is hereby ordered as follows:

**Section 1. Statutory Pay Systems.** The rates of basic pay or salaries of the statutory pay systems (as defined in 5 U.S.C. 5302(1)), as adjusted under 5 U.S.C. 5303(a), are set forth on the schedules attached hereto and made a part hereof:

(a) The General Schedule (5 U.S.C. 5332(a)) at Schedule 1;

(b) The Foreign Service Schedule (22 U.S.C. 3963) at Schedule 2; and

(c) The schedules for the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs (38 U.S.C. 7306, 7404; section 301(a) of Public Law 102–40) at Schedule 3.

**Sec. 2. Senior Executive Service.** The ranges of rates of basic pay for senior executives in the Senior Executive Service, as established pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 5382, are set forth on Schedule 4 attached hereto and made a part hereof.

**Sec. 3. Certain Executive, Legislative and Judicial Salaries.** The rates of basic pay or salaries for the following offices and positions are set forth on the schedules attached hereto and made a part hereof:

(a) The Executive Schedule (5 U.S.C. 5312–5318) at Schedule 5;

(b) The Vice President (3 U.S.C. 104) and the Congress (2 U.S.C. 31) at Schedule 6; and

(c) Justices and judges (28 U.S.C. 5, 44(d), 135, 252, and 461(a), section 140 of Public

Law 97–92, and section 305 of Division D of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008), at Schedule 7.

**Sec. 4. Uniformed Services.** The rates of monthly basic pay (37 U.S.C. 203(a)) for members of the uniformed services, as adjusted under 37 U.S.C. 1009, and the rate of monthly cadet or midshipman pay (37 U.S.C. 203(c)) are set forth on Schedule 8 attached hereto and made a part hereof.

**Sec. 5. Locality-Based Comparability Payments.**

(a) Pursuant to section 5304 of title 5, United States Code, and section 740 of Division D of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008, locality-based comparability payments shall be paid in accordance with Schedule 9 attached hereto and made a part hereof.

(b) The Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall take such actions as may be necessary to implement these payments and to publish appropriate notice of such payments in the *Federal Register*.

**Sec. 6. Administrative Law Judges.** The rates of basic pay for administrative law judges, as adjusted under 5 U.S.C. 5372(b)(4), are set forth on Schedule 10 attached hereto and made a part hereof.

**Sec. 7. Effective Dates.** Schedule 8 is effective on January 1, 2008. The other schedules contained herein are effective on the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after January 1, 2008.

**Sec. 8. Prior Order Superseded.** Executive Order 13420 of December 21, 2006, is superseded.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
January 4, 2008.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:57 a.m., January 7, 2008]

NOTE: This Executive order and its attached annexes will be published in the *Federal Register* on January 8.

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## **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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### ***December 29***

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had an intelligence briefing.

### ***December 31***

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had a telephone conversation with President Alvaro Uribe Velez of Colombia.

### ***January 1***

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC, arriving in the afternoon.

### ***January 2***

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had a video teleconference with President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan. He then met with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jan Cellucci, William J. Hagenah, and Mark Y. Herring to be members of the National Museum and Library Services Board.

The President announced that he has nominated the following individuals to be members of the National Council on the Humanities: Jamsheed K. Chosky; Dawn Ho Delbanco; Gary D. Glenn; David Hertz; Marvin Bailey Scott; and Carol M. Swain.

### ***January 3***

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he participated in an interview with Bret Baier of FOX News. Then, in the Oval Office, he participated in a roundtable interview with Reuters.

In the afternoon, the President participated in another interview with Bret Baier of FOX News.

The President announced his intention to designate Jeffrey Leigh Sedgwick as Acting

Assistant Attorney General (Office of Justice Programs).

### ***January 4***

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had a telephone conversation with King Abdullah II of Jordan.

The President declared a major disaster in Iowa and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe winter storm on December 10–11.

The President announced his intention to nominate Julia W. Bland to be a member of the National Museum and Library Services Board.

The President announced his intention to designate Richard Stickler as Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health.

The President announced that he has named Janet Weir Creighton as Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs.

The President announced that he has named Chris Frech as Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs.

The President announced that he has named Daniel McCardell as Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Public Liaison.

The President announced that he has named Emory Rounds as Associate Counsel to the President.

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## **Nominations Submitted to the Senate**

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NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

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## **Checklist of White House Press Releases**

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The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

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**Released December 29**

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 4839 and S. 2499

**Released December 31**

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Scott M. Stanzel

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary announcing that the President signed S. 2488

**Released January 2**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

**Released January 3**

Transcript of a briefing by National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley on the President's upcoming trip to the Middle East

Statement by National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley announcing the appointment of John I. Pray, Jr., as Executive Secretary of the National Security Council

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President received the report and recommendations of Presidential Emergency Board No. 242

**Released January 4**

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Tony Fratto

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed S. 2436

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Iowa

Fact sheet: December 2007 Marks Record 52d Consecutive Month of Job Growth

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**Acts Approved  
by the President**


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**Approved December 26 \***

H.R. 366 / Public Law 110–156

To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as the “Ernest Childers Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic”

H.R. 797 / Public Law 110–157

Dr. James Allen Veteran Vision Equity Act of 2007

H.R. 1045 / Public Law 110–158

To designate the Federal building located at 210 Walnut Street in Des Moines, Iowa, as the “Neal Smith Federal Building”

H.R. 2011 / Public Law 110–159

To designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 100 East 8th Avenue in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, as the “George Howard, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse”

H.R. 2761 / Public Law 110–160

Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007

H.R. 2764 / Public Law 110–161

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008

H.R. 3470 / Public Law 110–162

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 744 West Oglethorpe Highway in Hinesville, Georgia, as the “John Sidney ‘Sid’ Flowers Post Office Building”

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\* These public laws were not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

H.R. 3569 / Public Law 110–163

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 16731 Santa Ana Avenue in Fontana, California, as the “Beatrice E. Watson Post Office Building”

H.R. 3571 / Public Law 110–164

To amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to permit individuals who have served as employees of the Office of Compliance to serve as Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, or General Counsel of the Office, and to permit individuals appointed to such positions to serve one additional term

H.R. 3974 / Public Law 110–165

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 797 Sam Bass Road in Round Rock, Texas, as the “Marine Corps Corporal Steven P. Gill Post Office Building”

H.R. 3996 / Public Law 110–166

Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2007

H.R. 4009 / Public Law 110–167

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 567 West Nepessing Street in Lapeer, Michigan, as the “Turrill Post Office Building”

S. 1396 / Public Law 110–168

To authorize a major medical facility project to modernize inpatient wards at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Atlanta, Georgia

S. 1896 / Public Law 110–169

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11 Central Street in Hillsborough, New Hampshire, as the “Officer Jeremy Todd Charron Post Office”

S. 1916 / Public Law 110–170

Chimp Haven is Home Act

S.J. Res. 13 / Public Law 110–171

Granting the consent of Congress to the International Emergency Management Assistance Memorandum of Understanding

***Approved December 29***

H.R. 4839 / Public Law 110–172

Tax Technical Corrections Act of 2007

S. 2499 / Public Law 110–173

Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Extension Act of 2007

***Approved December 31***

S. 2271 / Public Law 110–174

Sudan Accountability and Divestment Act of 2007

S. 2488 / Public Law 110–175

Openness Promotes Effectiveness in our National Government Act of 2007

***Approved January 4***

S. 2436 / Public Law 110–176

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the term of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue